

REMARKS

This communication is the applicant's second response to the final Office Action having a mailing date of February 8, 2005. On April 26, 2005, the U.S. Patent Office mailed an Advisory Action addressing the applicant's previous response to the final Office Action.

The Examiner conducted telephone interviews with the applicant's attorney Dennis M. de Guzman on May 9 and May 10, 2005. During these telephone interviews, the Examiner and Mr. de Guzman discussed the applicant's claims and the prior art. The applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time from his busy schedule to discuss the application with Mr. de Guzman, and also further thanks the Examiner for his responsiveness and conscientious follow-up with his Primary Examiner. The Examiner and Mr. de Guzman were able to reach an agreement on the claims during the May 10 telephone interview.

More specifically, the Examiner indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of its base claim 1. The Examiner further indicated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of its base claim 11. The Examiner also informed Mr. de Guzman that independent claims 17-19 would be allowable if amended to include recitations similar to those of the allowable claims. The applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of these claims.

Accordingly, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form herein to include the recitations of its base claim 1, with claim 1 now canceled without prejudice. Claim 16 has been rewritten to include the recitations of its base claim 11, with claim 11 now canceled without prejudice. Claims 17-19 are amended to recite allowable subject matter.

Dependent claims 2, 12, and 22 are amended to change their dependency to their respective newly independent base claims. Claims 7-11 are canceled herein without prejudice. With this filing, claims 2-6 and 12-22 are pending in the application and are now allowable.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise

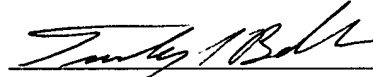
allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the applicant's attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Dennis M. de Guzman at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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